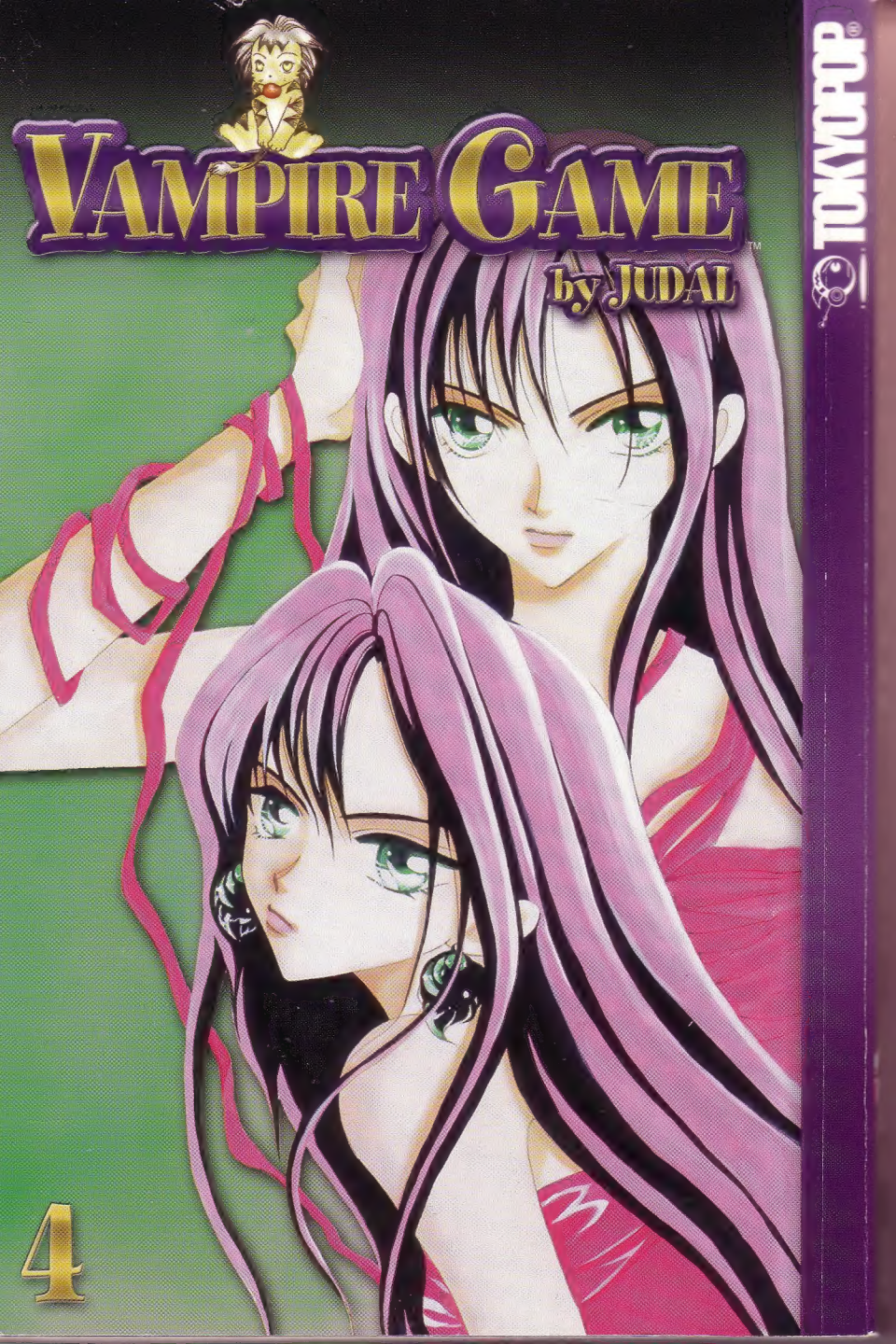
VAMPIRE GAME
by JUDAL
4
TOKYOPOP

VAMPIRE GAME

Volume 4

by

JUDAL

TOKYOPOP®

Los Angeles • Tokyo • London

VAMPIRE GAME

The Story Thus Far...

This is the tale of the Vampire King Duzell and his quest for revenge against the good King Phelios, a valiant warrior who slew the vampire a century ago. Now Duzell returns, reincarnated as a feline foe to deliver woe to... well, that's the problem. Who is the reincarnation of King Phelios?

Duzell's search has taken him and his companions to La Naan, a province which they have discovered is not the domain of the reborn Phelios. So why not pack for home? Well, Duzell most likely isn't aware of the revelation, since he's spent most of the past day cuddling up alongside some fellow Kyawl kittens. Darres, who is more than ready to go home, is rather busy fighting off Sharlen's gang of winged vampires. And Lady Ishtar? She's preoccupied by the task of facing the unbeatable Prince Seiliez in the final battle of the famous La Naan Martial Arts Tournament. With low chances, high stakes, and nary a friend to come to her rescue, the princess must win...or spend the rest of her life sharing dresses with her would-be husband, Prince Seiliez.

吸血遊戯
ヴァーン
西領編
Act.13

A wood-cutter's cottage in the forest

WAKE UP!
MOVE YOUR LAZY CARCASS AND MAKE ME BREAKFAST!!
I'LL TAKE ISHTAR'S FORM AND...
...USE THIS HORSE TO GET BACK TO THE COLISEUM. I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO MAKE THE FIGHT.
OWWW!
OKAY, DAD! I'M GOING! I'M GOING! JEEZ...

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吸血遊戯
ラ・ナーン
西領篇
Act.13

OKAAAY... THAT'S MY CUE TO EXIT.
OH MI GOD!
AAAHHH!
OH MI GOD!
DAD!
THERE'S THIS REALLY HOT, NAKED WEIRDO IN THE STABLE!!
AND UMM... HE WAS FOOLING AROUND WITH YOUR HORSE...

IF MY LIFE WERE A FAIRY TALE, THE HANDSOME PRINCE WOULD BE MAKING HIS ENTRANCE RIGHT ABOUT NOW...

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME...
YUJINN!
ARE YOU SURE MY WEAPONS CAN'T HURT THEM?
NOPE...
HEH, HEH...
HEH, HEH...
!!

THIS ISN'T WORKING!
I CAN'T EVEN HIT THEM, LET ALONE TAKE THEM OUT!

DAMN!
SIDIA...

DARRES, CONSIDERING YOU'VE ONLY GOT A SWORD, YOU'RE DOING VERY WELL.
AS FAR AS I KNOW, COLD STEEL IS USELESS AGAINST VAMPIRES.
JUST TRY TO JUST KEEP THEM AT BAY!

SOME-THING LIKE SIDIA, THE HOLY SWORD.

IN FACT, FOR THE STRONGEST VAMPIRES, YOU'LL NEED A RUELLE, SOMETHING FORGED WITH HOLY MAGIC.

GARLIC AIN'T GONNA CUT IT.
TO KILL THEM, YOU NEED A MAGIC WEAPON OR THE ABILITY TO CAST A HIGH-LEVEL SPELL.

...WILL EVER HAVE TO SEE HER CRY AGAIN.
AAAAAA

I PROMISED TO PROTECT EVERYONE...
...WHOSE LIFE WAS IN DANGER BY BEING AROUND ISHTAR.
THAT WAY NONE OF US...

PRINCE LAPHIJI?!
LADY RAMIA?!

FINALLY! NOT THE FASTEST RESCUE ON RECORD.
.....?!
WHO WOULD DARE CAST THE ORACLE SPELL?!

YOU'RE A TALENTED YOUNG MAGICIAN PRINCE WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOON
GET HIM, LAPHIJI!

DON'T YOUR POINTY LITTLE EARS WORK, SHARLEN?
I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY...
...FROM MY PEOPLE!
*ANCIENT LANGUAGE OF SPELLCASTING

IT'S STILL DARK OUTSIDE...
...?!

I WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH HIM.
JUST BE SURE TO BRING HIM BACK ALIVE!

DUZIE! YOU COULDN'T HAVE!!
COULD YOU?!
I PROMISED YOU'D NEVER SEE ME AGAIN.
I APOLO-GIZE.
.....
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MY LADY.

...YOU MUST STAY IN YOUR ROOM. THERE'S been A VAMPIRE ATTACK.
PRINCESS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
A VAMPIRE?!
DUZILLA GONE WILD!!!
GRRR
MEOW!

SIR DARRES...
I SUPPOSE... IT'S NOT REALLY YOUR FAULT.
...LAPHIJI HAD BEEN MONITORING THE CONVER-SATIONS OVER THAT MAKE-UP MIRROR OF YOURS.
ALL THREE OF MY SONS ARE ADOPTED. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW.
AND YOU'RE RIGHT..
?!
SEILIEZ..

...IS THE SON OF THIS WOMAN...
...AND MY LATE HUSBAND
WHAT?!

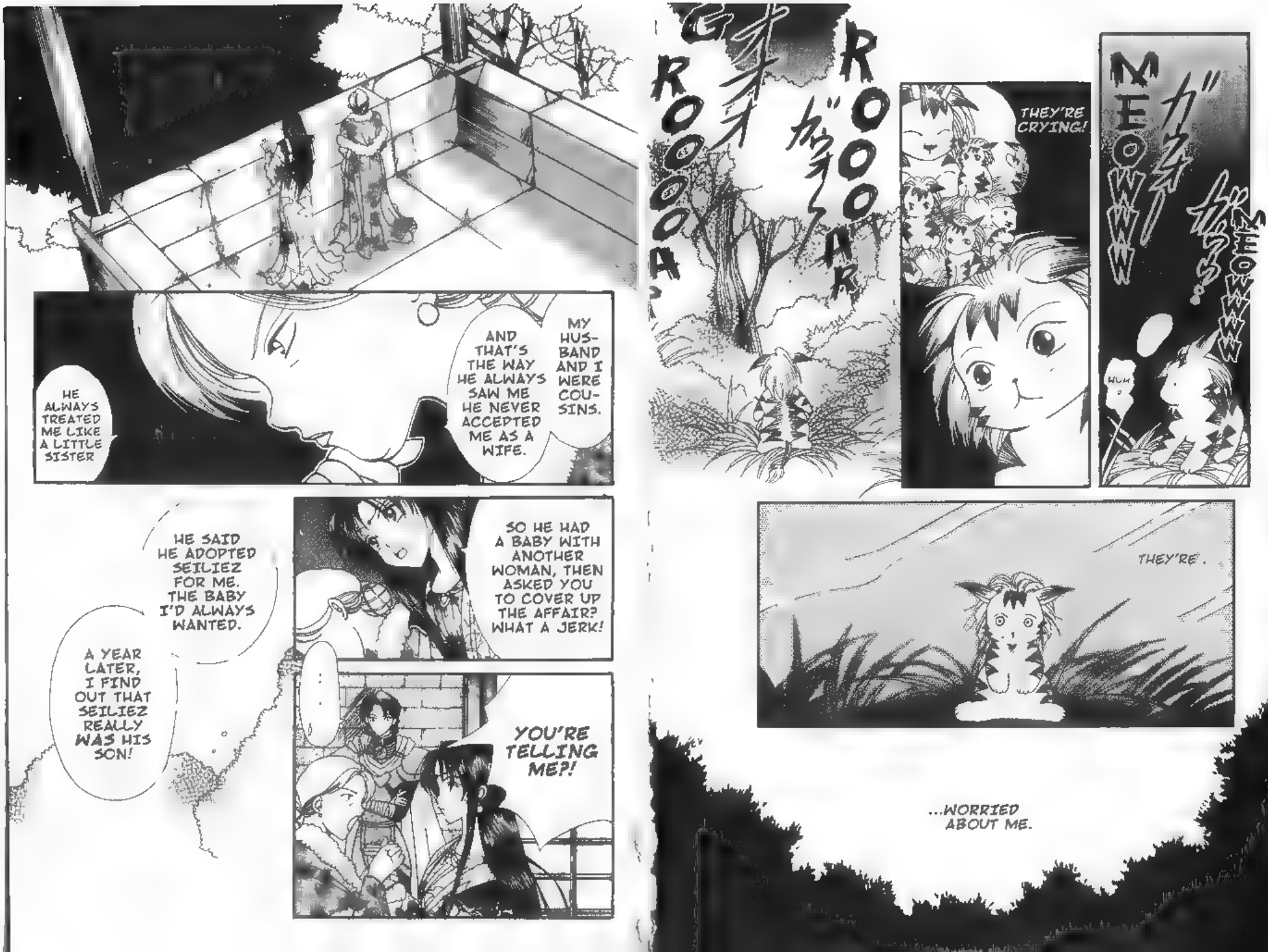
WHERE'S THE VAMPIRE?!
WAS HE HURT?! WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
HUH?!

SEILIEZ MAY BE THE SON OF A WHORE, BUT...
...HE'S STILL A BLOOD DESCENDANT OF PHELIOS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO, IF ISHTAR...
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?!!

...IF YOU..
...IF YOU REALLY DO LOVE HIM .
YOUR MAJESTY ..
...THEN TAKE HIM. AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM
HIM...?
?

YOUR MAJESTY ?
YOUR MAJESTY!
WHAT'S SHE BAB-BLING ABOUT NOW?
SHEESH... NO WONDER HE'S BEEN DROOLING OVER ME!
THIS IS THE GIRL THEY'RE FIGHTING OVER?
THE ONE SEILIEZ WANTS SO BADLY...

?
?
?
.....
SHE HAS A POINT..
FARE-WELL, LADY RAMIA.
I'M SURE I WON'T SEE MY LADY...OR PRINCE SEILIEZ.. AGAIN.
I'LL PRAY FOR YOU BOTH OF YOU.
MS. MURRA!
I HOPE...
...I HAVEN'T CAUSED YOU TOO MUCH DISTRESS.
WITHOUT YOU, I'D NEVER HAVE LIVED TO MEET HER HIGHNESS.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, BRAVE KNIGHT
I WISH YOU LUCK, BRAVE KNIGHT. FAREWELL.
BUT IF SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT THE HEALTH OF A FEW VAMPS, I'D KEEP CLOSE EYE ON HER BEHAVIOR.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
..SHE IS SWEET.


HE ALWAYS TREATED ME LIKE A LITTLE SISTER
AND THAT'S THE WAY HE ALWAYS SAW ME HE NEVER ACCEPTED ME AS A WIFE.
MY HUSBAND AND I WERE COUSINS.
HE SAID HE ADOPTED SEILIEZ FOR ME. THE BABY I'D ALWAYS WANTED.
A YEAR LATER, I FIND OUT THAT SEILIEZ REALLY WAS HIS SON!
SO HE HAD A BABY WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, THEN ASKED YOU TO COVER UP THE AFFAIR? WHAT A JERK!
YOU'RE TELLING ME?!
GROOOAR
ROOOAR
THEY'RE CRYING!
MEOWWW
MEOWWW
HUH?
THEY'RE.
...WORRIED ABOUT ME.

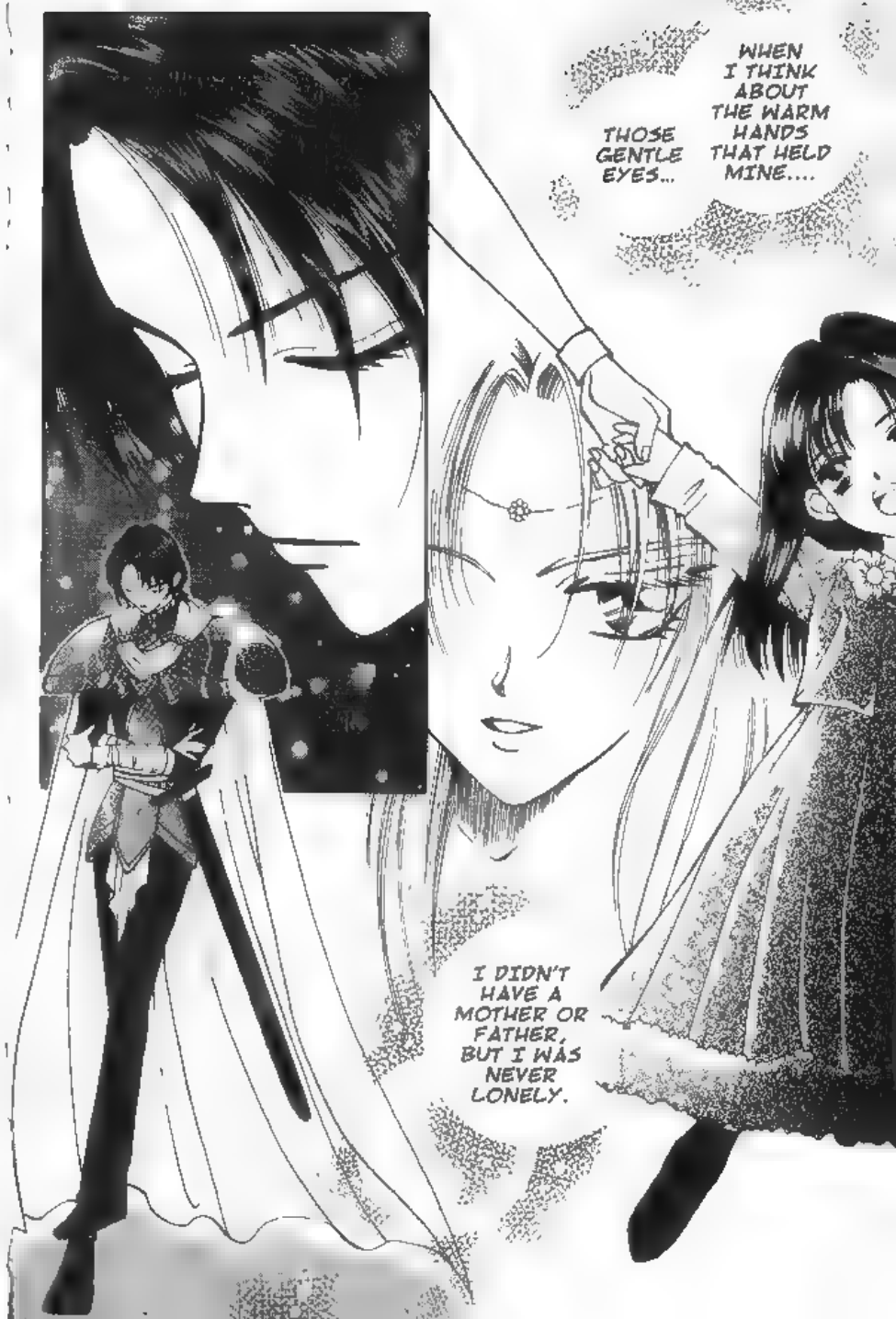
...SO MUCH.
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO HURT HIM.
MORE THAN ANY-THING...
...I WANTED...
...TO HAVE HIS CHILDREN...

I COULD HAVE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST HAVE A BUNCH OF AFFAIRS? MAYBE SOME KIDS WITH OTHER MEN! THAT'S WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE!!
SO I THOUGHT I'D GET EVEN BY ADOPTING LAPHIJI AND VORD. AT LEAST THEN MAYBE HIS BASTARD WOULDN'T END UP WITH LA NAAN
.....
BUT...
. I JUST .
...LOVED HIM...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY'RE AS CLOSE A FAMILY AS ANY THREE BROTHERS!
ACTUALLY, LAPHIJI AND SEILIEZ MIGHT BE A BIT CLOSER THAN THAT
MY ONLY FAMILY IS AN ADOPTED ONE BUT THEY LOVE ME.
..AND I LOVE THEM..
...AS MUCH AS IF WE HAD THE SAME PARENTS. MAYBE MORE. BLOODLINES DON'T DETERMINE WHO YOU LOVE.

.....
AUNT RAMIA, I NEVER IMAGINED...
AUNT RAMIA...
..YOU DID HAVE HIS CHILDREN.
YOU RAISED THEM TOGETHER, AS A FAMILY.
. . . !

WHAT?!
I KNOW! LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION!!
LADY ISHTAR!
QUIET!
THAT'S AN ORDER!
ARE YOU NUTS?!
I'VE GOT IT! DARRES, TELL YOUR MEN THAT ALL THREE PRINCES ARE THE RESULT OF MY UNCLE'S AFFAIRS AND TELL THEM TO KEEP IT QUIET BY TOMORROW NIGHT, ALL OF LA NAAN WILL HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT.
LET'S SEE... HOW FAR HAS THE WORD SPREAD?


THOSE GENTLE EYES...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE WARM HANDS THAT HELD MINE....
I DIDN'T HAVE A MOTHER OR FATHER, BUT I WAS NEVER LONELY.

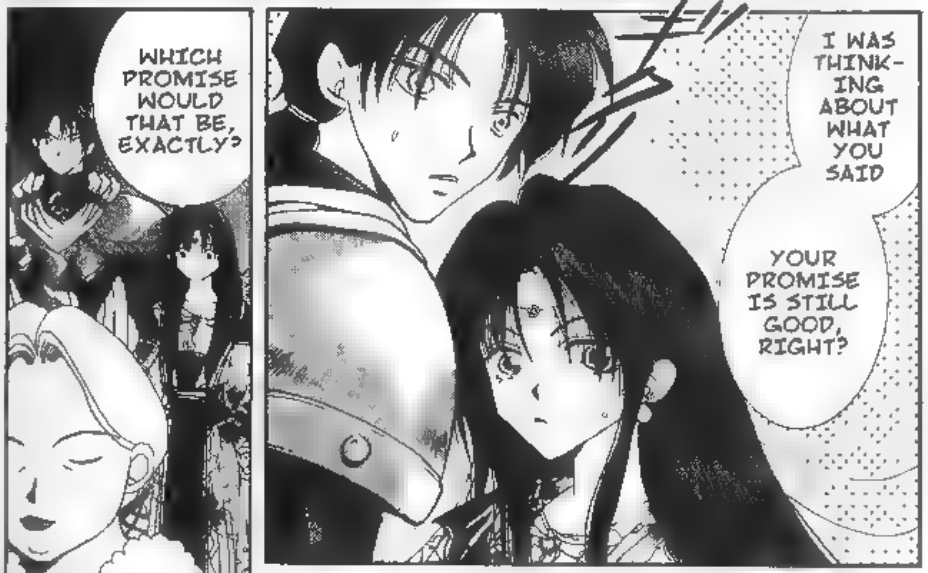
NOW, EVEN IF I LOSE AGAINST SEILIEZ...
LADY ISHTAR, THANK YOU! FOR EVERY-THING!
SHE COULD NEVER HOLD ME TO MY PROMISE.
NOT THAT SHE WANTS SEILIEZ TO WIN, ANYWAY.
PHEW! AT LAST NOW I CAN RELAX...

Final day of the
La Naan Martial Arts Competition

FINAL FIGHT

吸血遊戯
西領編
Act.14

I WAS AN IDIOT TO THINK AUNT RAMIA WOULD CUT ME ANY SLACK...
Several hours ago...
ABOUT LAST NIGHT...


WHICH PROMISE WOULD THAT BE, EXACTLY?
I WAS THINK-ING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID
YOUR PROMISE IS STILL GOOD, RIGHT?

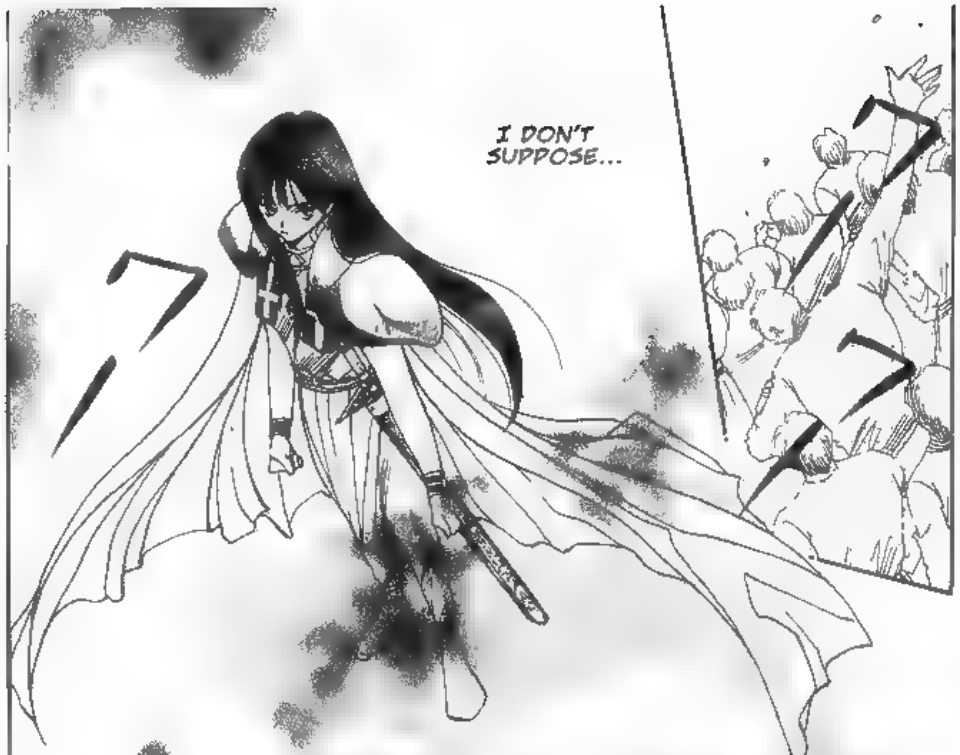
吸血遊戯
ラーナーン
西領篇
Act.14

...LAPHIJI WILL INHERIT LA NAAN
THIS ISN'T HOW I WANTED IT TO WORK OUT..
..BUT SEILIEZ WILL BE THE NEXT KING OF PHELIOSTA ...
SHE'S ALREADY FIGURING OUT HOW TO WORK THIS TO HER ADVANTAGE.
...AND VORD WILL BE THE NEXT KING OF RAZENIA.
WAIT...
...ISN'T IT GOING TO TAKE A BIT OF WORK TO PUT VORD ON THE THRONE OF RAZENIA?
IT'S A BIG COUNTRY, WITH LOTS OF ALLIES, ISN'T IT? CONQUERING THEM WON'T BE EASY.
AUNT RAMIA...
...I KNOW YOU'RE JUST THINK-ING OUT LOUD, BUT...
WHY, YOUR PROMISE TO MARRY THE PRINCE THAT WINS THE TOUR-NAMENT...
...OR DID YOU FORGET ALREADY, YOU SILLY GOOSE?
UH... WELL, I GUESS BUT.
LADY RAMIA... PLEASE...
OH, I'M SO GLAD!!
WE'LL HAVE SO MUCH FUN! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A DAUGHTER! WE CAN GO SHOPPING AND HAVE TEA PARTIES.

IT SHOWS...
...SEILIEZ WILL HAVE TO DO.
PHELIOSTA WOULD HAVE BENEFITED FROM HIS CONFI-DENCE.
PERSONALLY, VORD WAS MY FIRST CHOICE.
BUT I SUPPOSE ...

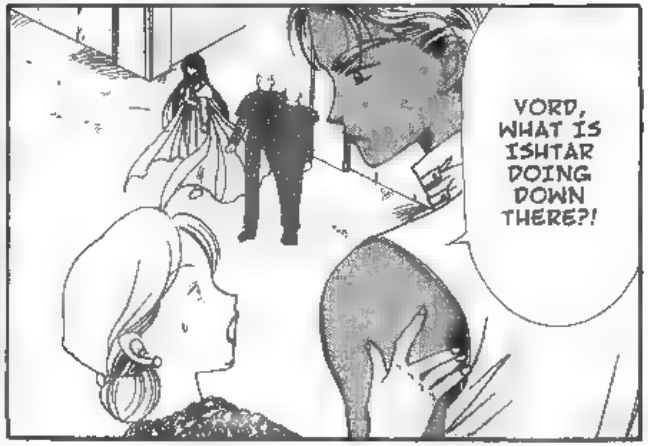
WHAT?!
IF VORD'S FATHER WASN'T THE KING OF RAZENIA. SO HE'S KIND OF GOT AN "IN."
YOU'D BE RIGHT, OF COURSE ...

HE REALLY IS A PRINCE..
I WASN'T GOING TO, BUT I SUPPOSE A PRINCE'S PLACE IS WITH HIS PEOPLE.
AND UNFORTUNATELY, VORD'S ONLY BROTHER, THE CROWN PRINCE, SEEMS TO HAVE CAUGHT SOMETHING NASTY AND PASSED ON SINCE THEN, THE KING HAS BEEN POSITIVELY BADGERING ME TO RETURN HIM.
.....


I DON'T SUPPOSE...

YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
SHE'S BEEN COMPETING UNDER AN ALIAS.
HOW CUTE MOM WAS ONLY WATCHING OUR FIGHTS.

...FROM AUNT RAMA.
...I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED ANY DIFFERENT...


VORD, WHAT IS ISHTAR DOING DOWN THERE?!

I'D RATHER SEE MY HUSBAND'S BASTARD ON THE THRONE...
...OR FOR THAT MATTER, YOUR VICIOUS, HORRIBLE CAT ..
SEILIEZ WILL HAVE TO DO?
ホーホッホーホホーホー
...THAN KNEEL BEFORE ONE OF MY WRETCHED NEPHEWS...
...AS HIS SUBJECT.
DUZELL WOULD MAKE A GOOD KING.

YOU GIVE ME THE MONEY, AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE YOU CAN SHOVE IT.
SIGH..
AUNT RAMIA COULD LEARN SOME SUBTLETY...
MMM... HOW 'BOUT THIS INSTEAD?
WHAT?

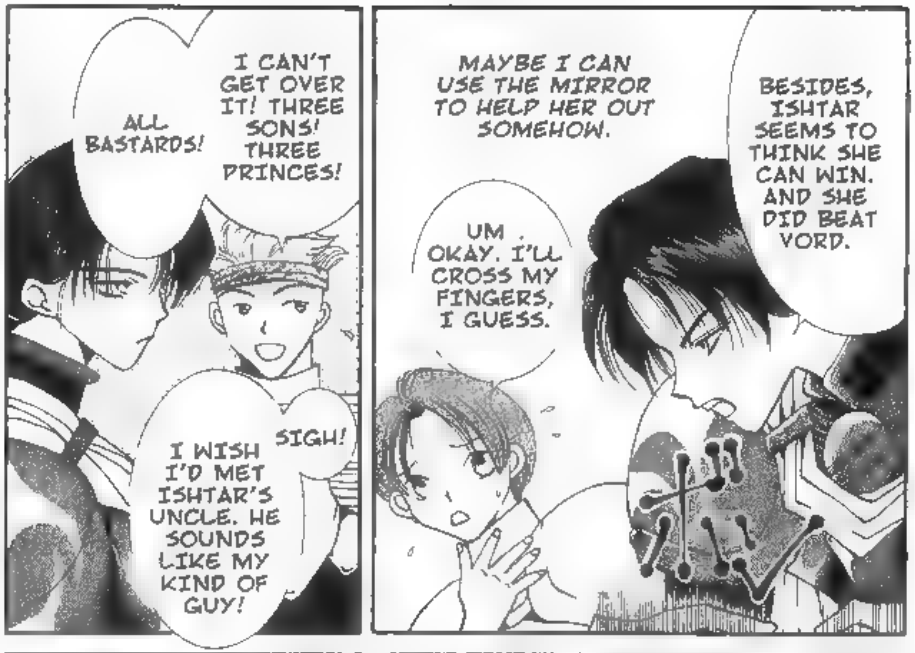
MY PLAN WON'T WORK IF SHE'S HIS OPPONENT!
THAT CAN'T BE!
YOUR PLAN?
5000 BIG ONES, JUST FOR TAKING A DIVE SOUND GOOD? YOU DON'T NEED TO BE LIVING IN A FAIRY TALE TO GO HOME HAPPILY EVER AFTER HERE.
JUST THE, UH...MAN I WANTED TO SEE! I HAVE AN OFFER FOR YOU.

THE FIGHT'S ABOUT TO START!
I'VE GOT TO HURRY!
WHAT TIME...?!

.....

"...OF PHELIOS TO THEIR DOOM'"
"LEAD ALL THE DESCEN-DANTS .."
HMM... I WONDER IF LAPHIJI FOUND THAT VAMPIRE.
WHAT DID HE MEAN?

!!
IT'S LAPHIJI. BUT WHO'S HIS FRIEND?


I CAN'T GET OVER IT! THREE SONS! THREE PRINCES!
ALL BASTARDS!
SIGH!
I WISH I'D MET ISHTAR'S UNCLE. HE SOUNDS LIKE MY KIND OF GUY!
MAYBE I CAN USE THE MIRROR TO HELP HER OUT SOMEHOW.
BESIDES, ISHTAR SEEMS TO THINK SHE CAN WIN. AND SHE DID BEAT VORD.
UM . OKAY. I'LL CROSS MY FINGERS, I GUESS.

AND YUJINN? HE WAS MAKING WEATHER PREDIC-TIONS.
AND WHILE I'M AT IT, LET'S GIVE DUE PROPS TO THE GUY WHO FIGURED IT OUT WHILE DARRES WAS TALKING TO A MIRROR, AND JILL WAS BABYSITTING, I WAS THE ONE DUTIFULLY COMBING THE RED LANTERN DISTRICT

YUJINN. .

FIGHTERS! BEGIN!

CAPTAIN. .
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO LET HER FIGHT?!

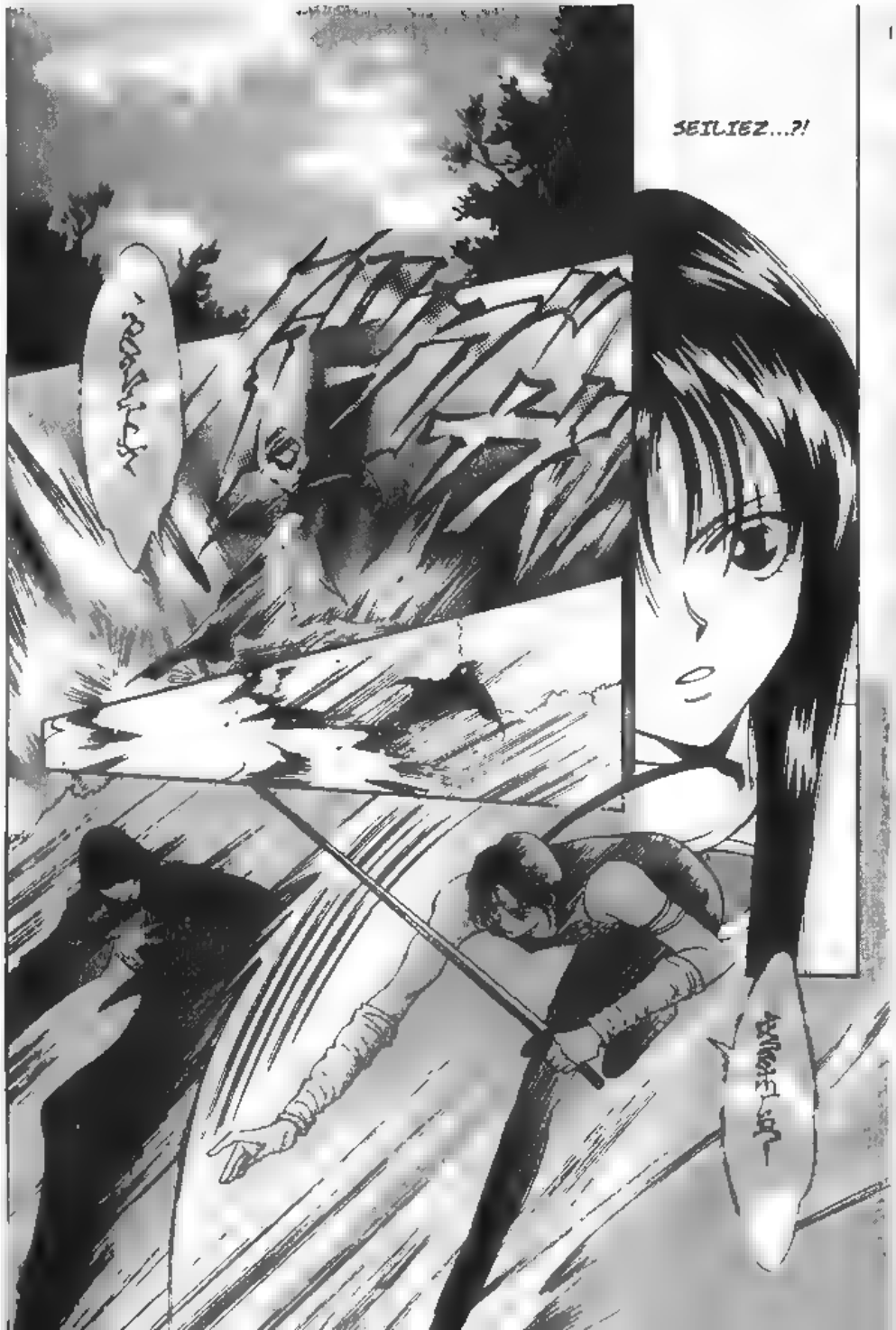
I GUESS SO.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE SEILIEZ HAS BLOOD TIES TO PHELIOS.
LADY RAMIA WON'T LET ISHTAR BACK OUT OF HER PROMISE TO MARRY THE WINNER

A PROTECTION SPELL AGAINST PHYSICAL AND MAGICAL ATTACK..
...ACTIVATED WITHOUT BEING CAST.
...?!
A VERY POWERFUL SPELL...
MUST BE A RUELLE...

HE KNEW ALL ALONG.
HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROOF, BUT...
...SOMEHOW...
...HE KNEW
CAP-TAIN!
THEY'RE JUST STANDING THERE AND STARING AT EACH OTHER!
IS IT BECAUSE OF HER RUELLES?
WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL HIM?
I'M SCREWED!

LADY ISHTAR!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YOU'VE HUMILIATED EVERYONE THAT'S STEPPED INTO THE RING WITH YOU!
WHY ARE YOU DEPENDING ON A RUELLE NOW?
ARE YOU THAT AFRAID...
...OF BECOMING MY BRIDE?

THE RUELLES WILL PROTECT ME FROM ATTACK...
...BUT THEY WON'T HELP ME GET ANY BETTER.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ..?


SEILIEZ...?!
ドサッ

SHE SAID
GOODLINE DIDN'T
MATTER TO HER.
THAT SHE'D
CHOOSE ME OVER
MY BROTHERS!

DID YOU
LIE TO
ME?

IMPRES-
SIVE...

WHY
ARE THEY
FIGHTING?

BESIDES, I COULD NEVER SLEEP KNOWING THE CREATURE THAT'S EXPLOITING MY BROTHER IS STILL ALIVE, SLITHERING AROUND SOMEWHERE. NOT WHEN I COULD JUST END IT HERE
DESTROY THE HOUSE OF PHELIOS?!
IT'D BE EASY ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN
"OOPS, MAGIC GOT OUT OF CONTROL AGAIN! DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME LATELY SORRY MOM! HEH HEH."
HE'S THE VAMPIRE THAT CAST THE GUARDINAL?!
DESTROY THE HOUSE OF PHELIOS

..FOR A HUMAN.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD HURT ME...
..AND BECAME MINE!
I'M SURE PICKING APART YOUR PLAN WOULD BE LOADS OF FUN FOR HER BUT INTRIGUE AND ASSASSINATION PLOTS CEASED TO MATTER WHEN YOU STOPPED BEING MY MOTHER'S PROBLEM
DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER TELL YOU TO BRING ME BACK ALIVE? IF YOU KILL ME NOW, HOW WILL YOU EVER FIND OUT WHAT I HAVE IN STORE FOR ALL OF YOU? THE HOUSE OF PHELIOS WILL BE DESTROYED.

...ONE OF MY MEN FROM MY FORMER LIFE?
DON'T BE SO DIFFICULT
!!

ドサッ
HMMM...
YOU'RE A REIN-CARNATED VAMPIRE.
WHAT?! WHY?!
THAT MEANS YOU MIGHT BE THAT INSUFFER-ABLE DUZELL I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU
SORRY.
NO HARD FEELINGS I HOPE.

スー
THANK YOU, LITTLE ONE.
HE HAD ME UP AGAINST A ROCK... SO TO SPEAK

吸血遊戯
ラ・ナーン
西領篇
Act.15

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF REIN-CARNATED...
..AGAIN...
...COME TO PHELIOSTA SOON IT WILL BE A PARADISE FOR OUR KIND. AND I WILL BE YOUR KING.
DIDN'T I COME UP WITH THAT IDEA--IN MY FORMER LIFE? DIDN'T I DIE FOR IT?
A VAMPIRE KINGDOM IN PHELIOSTA?!

I WASN'T LYING.
I MEANT IT WHEN I SAID...
.....!!
...I'D CHOOSE YOU OVER YOUR BROTHERS.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WANT TO MARRY YOU!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MISLEAD YOU.

WERE YOU LYING?!
YOU SAID YOU'D CHOOSE ME!
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MY BLOODLINE!
I WASN'T...

LIKE HIS MOTHER?
YOU'RE WRONG, SEILIEZ!
YOUR MOTHER NEVER MEANT TO REJECT YOU! SHE LOVES YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING!
WAIT! I CAN'T TELL HIM HE'S MY UNCLE'S REAL SON!
I MADE A PROMISE TO KEEP THAT TO MYSELF!
MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY...

YOU TOO..
YOU'RE JUST LIKE MY MOTHER! YOU DON'T WANT ME!
I THOUGHT ...
...YOU WERE DIFFERENT. I THOUGHT YOU COULD LOVE ME.
DESPITE THE TRUTH ABOUT MY BIRTH.

.....?!

I WISH I COULD HEAR THEM. I CAN'T TELL IF THEY'RE HAVING A HEART-TO-HEART...
...OR JUST TALKING TRASH.

SEILIEZ...
..I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

IT'S OVER.

ARE WE WATCHING A FENCING MATCH, OR A POLITICAL DEBATE?
THIS IS THE WEIRDEST MATCH I'VE EVER SEEN.
...
さわさわ

HEALING MAGIC?!

I NEVER FOUND PHELIOS. I DIDN'T FIGHT FOR ISHTAR..
I FAILED. AGAIN...

!!
YOU
..SHOULD BE ABLE T-TO MOVE.
GO F-FIND... YOUR OWNER.
SHE'S... WORRIED ABOUT... Y-YOU.

...HE DOESN'T LOVE ME!
I'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE HOW MUCH...
..I LOVE HIM.
I LOVE HIM SO MUCH.

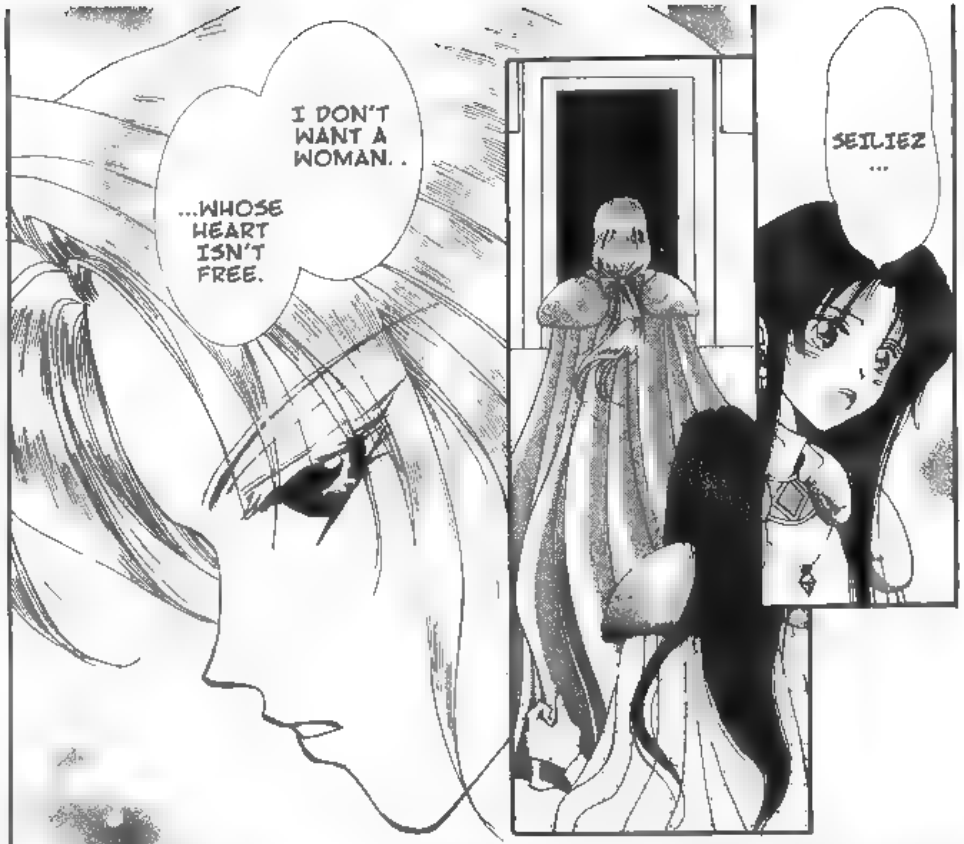
I LOVE HIM!
MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD!
ISHTAR ...
BUT I CAN'T HAVE HIM!
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY BLOOD TIES TO PHELIOS...
...AND WORSE...
YES, MUCH WORSE...

MY MOTHER TO LOVE ME.
.....!
YOU'RE NEVER...
...GOING TO REPLACE HER.
I KNOW UNREQUITED LOVE HURTS!
BUT YOU CAN'T LIE TO YOURSELF!
AND...
...NO-BODY..
..CAN EVER TAKE HER PLACE!

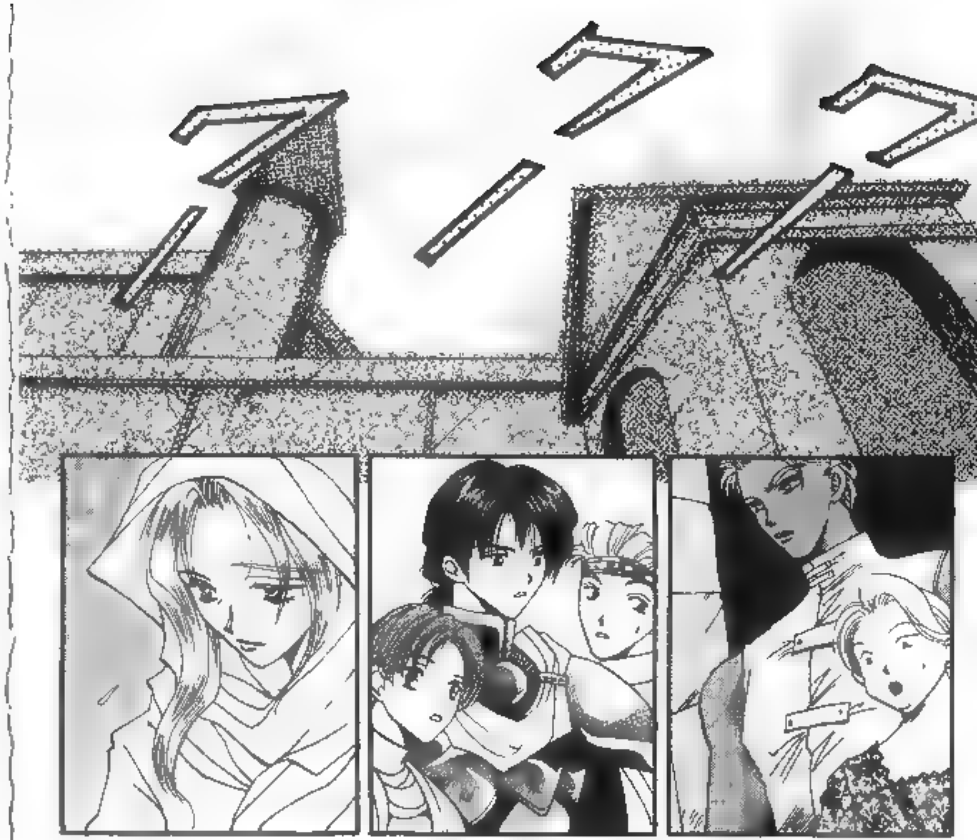
BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE THRONE, YOUR BROTH-ERS...
.. OR ME.
BELIEVE ME...
..I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, SEILIEZ.
YOU JUST...
YOU JUST WANT YOUR MOTHER TO LOVE YOU.

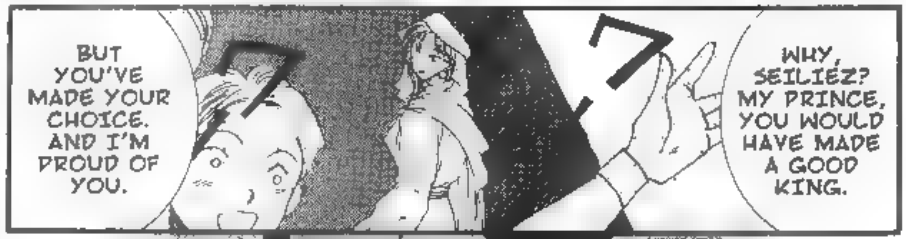
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU WIN.
POINT!

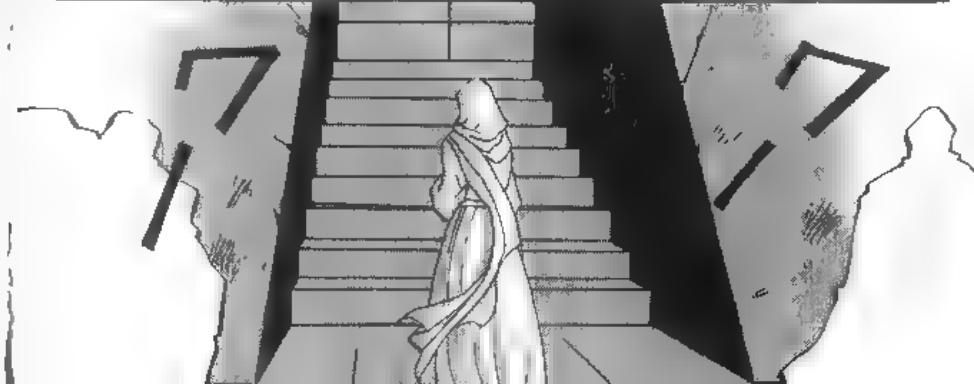
IS THAT WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR? A REPLACE-MENT MOTHER. .


I DON'T WANT A WOMAN. .
...WHOSE HEART ISN'T FREE.
SEILIEZ ...

WAIT, SEILIEZ!




BUT YOU'VE MADE YOUR CHOICE. AND I'M PROUD OF YOU.
WHY, SEILIEZ? MY PRINCE, YOU WOULD HAVE MADE A GOOD KING.



THANKS.

I LOVE YOU...
...BUT IN A DIFFERENT WAY.
AND I KNOW...
..VORD AND LAPHIJI LOVE YOU MORE THAN I DO.
ESPECIALLY LAPHIJI
SMILE

LAPHIJI NEEDS HELP!
GROOOWWWLLL!
MEOOOWW

AUNT RAMIA, LAPHIJI HEALED DUZELL FIRST...
...SO HE COULD COME BACK AND WARN ME.
REALLY?
LAPHIJI ALWAYS LIKED ANIMALS.
HOW STRANGE!
HOW DID HE KNOW LAPHIJI WAS HURT? HOW WERE YOU EVEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIM?
LAPHIJI DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT TO ME!
UM, WELL... IT'S A LONG STORY...

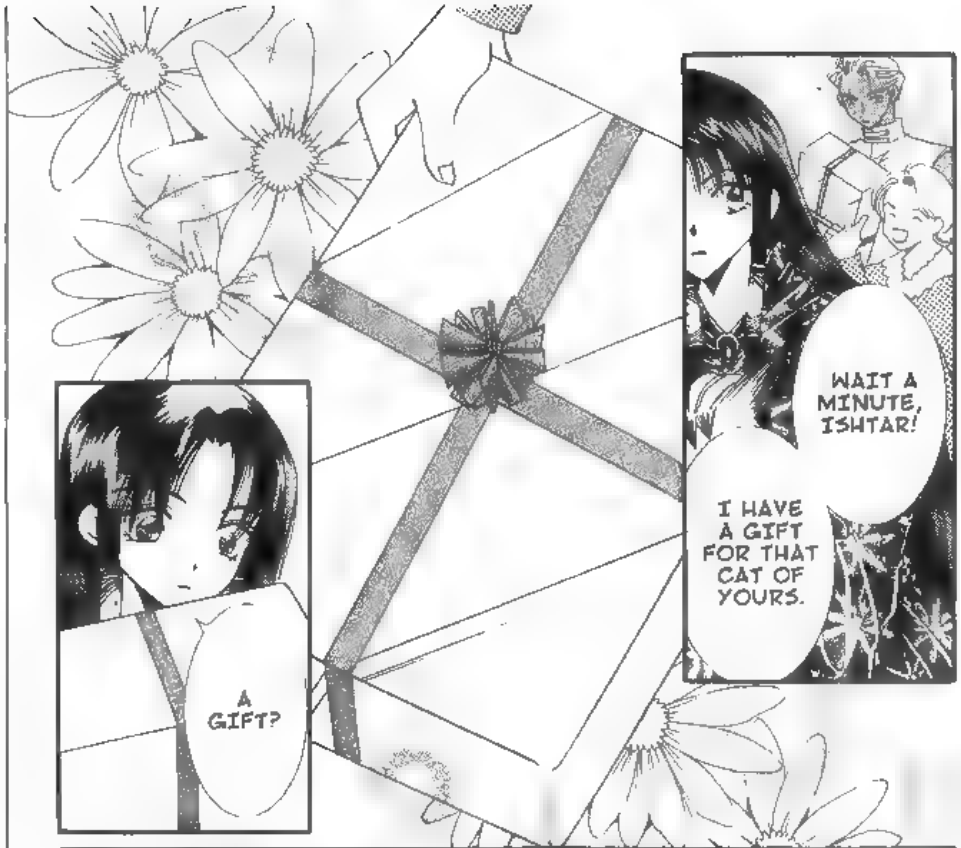
GLARE
I PRAYED THAT THE CAT WOULDN'T COME BACK. OH HOW I PRAYED...
THANK YOU, ISHTAR.
....
...BUT IF YOUR ANIMAL WASN'T THERE..
LAPHIJI MIGHT NOT HAVE SURVIVED THE ATTACK.

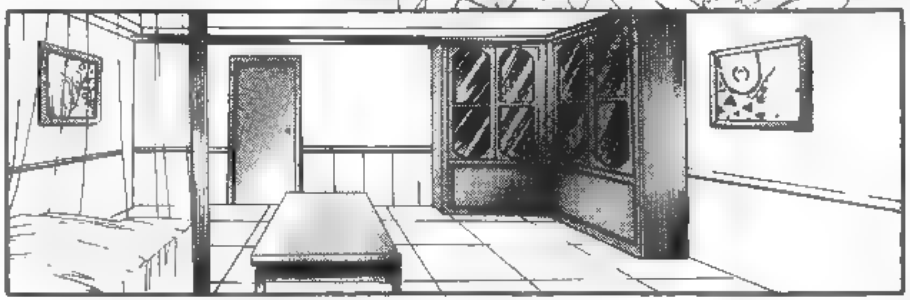
BUT WHERE'S SEILIEZ ?

SAY, AUNTIE...
...I KNOW LAPHIJI IS RESTING RIGHT NOW...

HE'S TAKING CARE OF LAPHIJI.

DON'T BE SO HARD ON HIM...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
I TOLD HIM TO COME UP AND SAY GOODBYE, BUT THAT BOY CAN BE SO CONTRARY SOMETIMES.
THAT BOY HAS HAD ONE VERY TRYING DAY
WELL, SEE YA


WAIT A MINUTE, ISHTAR!
I HAVE A GIFT FOR THAT CAT OF YOURS.
A GIFT?



YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE?

BROTHER, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A LOUSY LIAR.
.....
SEILIEZ, LAPHIJI!

I'LL LET VORD DO IT. AFTER ALL, HE'S THE ONE THAT REFUSED SHARLEN'S OFFER.
HE SHOULD HAVE THE HONOR.
.....?
NO.
HE LOVES HER SO MUCH.
I'M SURE WE'RE ALL BETTER OFF THIS WAY.

IS THIS WHAT IT TAKES FOR MY MOTHER TO LOVE ME?
?
HE'S GONE! VORD'S GONE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HE RAN OFF AFTER THAT LITTLE TRAMP!!
OH...
...VORD!
MY BABY! BWAHHHH!
MOM...?!

HEY!

WAIT UP!

YOU SHOULD HAVE COME TO THE BROTHEL WITH US, CAPTAIN
YOU'RE SO WOUND UP YOU'RE HEARING THINGS!
THAT'S WEIRD. I THOUGHT I HEARD VORD.

UHH... HOWDY?

FOR EVERYONE.

FOR MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS...

THIS IS FOR THE BEST.

SEILIEZ, LAPHIJI...

...TAKE GOOD CARE OF MOM...

カラカラ
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM.
WHO?
THAT VAMPIRE?
I VILL CONQUER THE VORLD AND TURN THE HUMAN VACE INTO LIVE-STOCK.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW.. IN THEIR LAST LIFE, OF COURSE
LOOKS LIKE THIS SHARLEN FREAK JUST PICKED UP YOUR BALL AND RAN WITH IT YOU'D THINK THE GUY COULD BE MORE ORIGINAL, WHAT WITH HAVING ETERNITY TO PLAN THINGS OUT AND ALL.

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM WITH THE HOUSE OF PHELIOS? WHY START THERE? WHY NOW?
YEAH, BUT...
OH MY GOD!!!

BROTHER?
FAMILY?
OH, CRAP.
SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT. I GUESS SINCE.. VAMPIRES DON'T HAVE FAMILIES... YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T SEE THE HUMOR IN THAT...
IT'S LIKE A LITTLE DUZIE CLONE! YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU HAD A TWIN BROTHER!
DOES TOO!

HMMMM...

REALLY?
I THINK I UNDERSTAND.

ISN'T IT THE CUTEST THING ?!!!!
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!
IT DOES NOT!

吸血遊戯
東領篇
Act.1

Ci Xeneth

西領篇
FIN

吸血遊戯
シーザス
東領篇
Act.1

WHO AM I?
WHAT AM I?
WHAT AM I
DOING HERE?

ヒラリ
フワン
サラサラ
ジッ

PHELIOS ISN
HERE, OR
IN LA NAAN
WHERE COULD
HE BE? I'VE
EXHAUSTED
MY LEADS.
HAS
HE EVEN
BEEN
REBORN
INTO THIS
FAMILY
YET?
DID I REALLY
FOLLOW HIM INTO
THIS WORLD?
HOW
CAN
I BE
SURE?
I'M
DONE!

SHE CONFUSED AN ATTACKING AND HEALING SPELL? I THOUGHT ISHTAR KNEW HER MAGIC?!
A SPONGE ..
YES, CAPTAIN!
JILL, KRAI! ATTEN-TION!
SHE'S WORTHLESS WITH A SWORD AND HER MAGIC IS A JOKE. SO FAR WE'VE MANAGED TO PROTECT HER...
...BUT THOSE MAGIC CHARMS...

ONLY 12 POINTS?
OUT OF 200?
BOOYAH!!! THAT'S BETTER THAN LAST TIME!
YOU SCORED A 12.
MY LADY, APART FROM THE LOW SCORE...
OH, OOPS! SILLY ME! HEE HEE!
YOU ASKED FOR THE MIGHT OF A SPONGE IN THE FUTURE, PLEASE BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL.
.. YOU CONFUSED AN ATTACKING SPELL WITH A HEALING SPELL. AND SEE THIS PART RIGHT HERE? WHERE YOU ASKED FOR AN ANIMAL SPIRIT TO GIVE YOU ITS STRENGTH?

OH DARRES, STOP IT!
THAT'S FOR, UH... PREVENT-ING WARTS!
IT'S CALLED THE "LILKE," AND YOU CAN USE IT FOR TRANSPORTATION, MY LADY.

.. ARE BOUND TO FAIL EVEN-TUALLY.
OH YUJINN..
..THAT REMINDS ME...
WHAT'S THIS LAST RUELLE FOR?
HER FIFTH RUELLE?
NOTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN WHEN I PUT IT ON!
OH, NO...

HOW'D YOU KNOW! YOU'RE SO SMART! I JUS' WUV YOU!
OW! QUIT IT! I WAS IN THE ROOM WHEN YUJINN TOLD YOU THAT AN HOUR AGO, YOU DORK!
OH YEAH! PUT THIS ON.
?
YOU WANT ME TO WEAR THIS?!
YEAH! IT'LL LOOK GREAT ON YOU!
BUT YOU CAN ONLY USE IT ONCE, SO
. YOU SHOULD SAVE IT FOR AN EMER-GENCY, RIGHT?

MEOW
SO I CAN TELEPORT A COUPLE OF PEOPLE ANYWHERE I WANT JUST BY WEARING THE RING AND CONCENTRATING ON THE DESTINATION. ISN'T THAT COOL, DUZIE?

I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, BUT SEILIEZ MIGHT BE MY GREAT-GRAND-FATHER'S REIN-CARNATION!
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...
Murra + Uncle = Seiliez = Descendant of Phelios.
WHAT?!

WE'RE GOING BACK TO LA NAAN.
GOING BACK?
THIS ISN'T MY COLOR.
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
SO WHAT'S THE POINT?
BUT WE ALREADY KNOW PHELIOS ISN'T THERE.
IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY LET'S JUST SAY THERE'S ONE THING WE FORGOT TO CHECK.
READY?

WELL DONE. A PERFECT SCORE!
HERE, TAKE A LOOK.
VERY IMPRESSIVE. YOU'VE ALREADY MASTERED EVERY SPELL IN THE GRIMROIR.
YOU'RE ONLY 18, RIGHT?
FUNNY YOU LOOK OLDER
SIT DOWN.
GOOD, SO OBVIOUSLY I DON'T NEED ANY MORE MAGIC CLASSES...
...SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME..

NO MORE QUESTIONS! LET'S GO!

THIS PRETTY-BOY FAIRY WIZARD WANTS TO TELL ME ABOUT TECHNIQUE?
WE WILL...
...PROVIDED YOU SWEAR TO USE WHAT YOU LEARN IN SERVICE OF HER MAJESTY. AND SWEAR LOYALTY TO OUR BELOVED ST. PHELIOSTA AND THE HOUSE OF PHELIOS.
THIS NANCY-BOY'S ALREADY GETTING ON MY NERVES.
YUJINN!
HA-V
WAS SHE? SO I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE MY MAGIC TEACHER? I ALREADY KNOW ALL THE SPELLS...
AND THAT, YOUNG PRINCE, PROVES THAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF MAKING MISTAKES. YOU WILL BE ATTENDING CLASSES, AT YOUR MOTHER'S REQUEST. SHE WAS VERY SPECIFIC.
..WHAT MORE ARE YOU GOING TEACH ME?
TO START, TECHNIQUE. AFTER THAT, WE'LL SEE.
WILL WE, NOW?

OOPS I THINK I BROKE IT
ISHTAR'S MISSING!
I KNEW IT.
YOU KNEW WHAT?

SO, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE WE ARE?
OF COURSE! WE'RE UP NORTH, IN CI XENETH!
ISHTAR!
WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?!
SEILIEZ CAN WAIT, RIGHT?
BESIDES, THERE ARE TWO DIRECT DESCENDENTS OF PHELIOS HERE.
JEEZ. CALM DOWN. IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE LOST OR SOMETHING.

WELL, THAT WAS MY FIRST ATTEMPT AT TELEPORTATION..
...AND IT GOT A LITTLE CONFUSING THERE FOR A WHILE..
UM. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A MAP, WOULD YOU?
A MAP?
SOOOO, ISHTAR...
WHERE IN LA NAAN ARE WE, EXACTLY?
TO REACH LA NAAN, I KNOW I NEED TO TURN SOUTH AT MT MUDLUMP, THEN EAST WHEN I GET TO THE WASTELANDS.
...AND THAT SHOULD LEAD US TO CRIKLIN'S CAVE, WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO ASK THE ONE-BREASTED BIRDWOMAN WHERE TO FIND THE.
THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND INCREDIBLY BAD.

DUZELL!
LOOK!
YOU PICKED THE WRONG PLACE TO GO FOR A WALK, GRANDPA.

FINE.
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR RELATIVES HERE, THEN
AND THEY SAY MEN ARE BAD WITH DIREC-TIONS.
WELL...
.. UNCLE JENED IS REALLY INTO MAGIC AND OBSESSED WITH RUELLES.
OH, AND HE WANTS TO KILL ME.
WHAT! WHY?

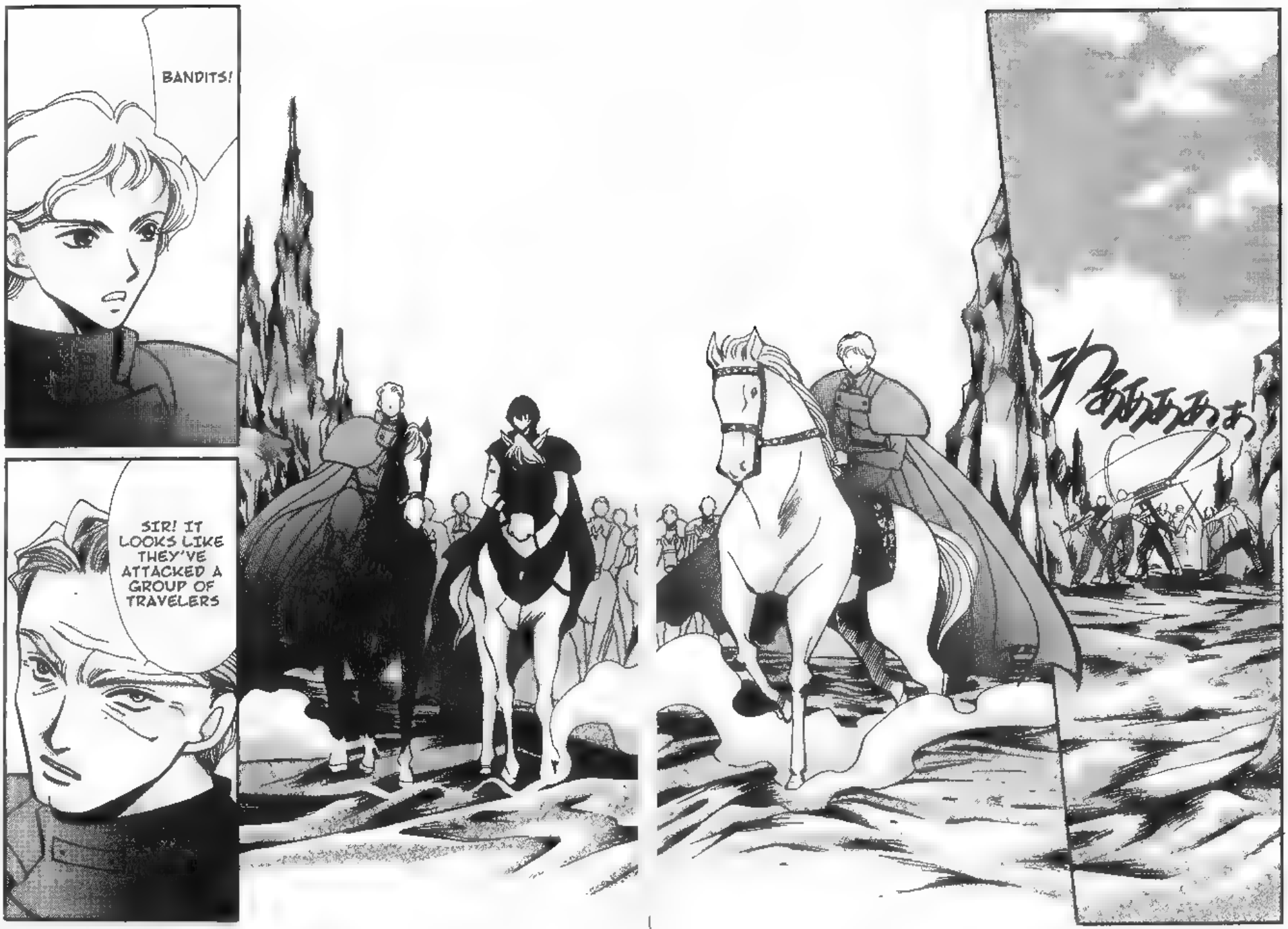
WHAT'S THE OL' GEEZER MUMBLING ABOUT?
I'M WORKING ON SOME THING BIG SOMETHING LIFE-SHATTERING AND I DON'T WANT ANY MUDDLING ABOUT
SHIIING
GRRRRGH
!

...YOU'RE COMING WITH US!
UNTIL WE GET THE KNIGHTS OF CI XENETH OFF OUR ASS..
THE KNIGHTS OF CI XENETH? WHERE?
BUT IF THOSE GODDAMN KNIGHTS ARE AROUND
I'M VERY SORRY YOUNG MAN...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO EASY ON YOU.

KILL THEM!
WE'LL SLICE THEM OPEN AND USE THEIR ENTRAILS TO HANG THEM.
UH-OH HERE, YOUR TURN NOW, DUZIE
SHE DID IT AGAIN
DAMMIT ISHTAR!
ROAR
YOU SHOT HIM WHILE HIS BACK WAS TURNED!
LOOK DUZIE! I GOT HIM! IN YOUR FACE, BITCH!!!
WHO CARES?!
NAW, BUT I BET THEY'RE WITH THE GEEZER!
ARE THEY KNIGHTS ?!

IT WON'T BUDGE! STUPID... HOLY... SWORD...
?!

I SUPPOSE I CAN USE THE EXERCISE.


BANDITS!
SIR! IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE ATTACKED A GROUP OF TRAVELERS

WE'RE UNDER DIRECT ORDERS FROM LORD JENED.
THE HOSTAGES AREN'T OUR CONCERN
OUR JOB IS TO FIND THE STOLEN RUELLE...
...NOT BODYGUARD A BUNCH OF OUTLANDERS.
BESIDES GORGEN...
..IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WON'T BE NEEDING OUR HELP.
?!

WATCH IT, OLD MAN!
OUT OF THE WAY!!
HOW...
...DID HE DO THAT?!
COME ON, GRAMPS!
TO HELL WITH THIS! I'M GONNA GRAB THE GEEZER AND RUN!
...DIDN'T EVEN UNSHEATHE HIS SWORD!!

ISHTAR!
HOLY MAGIC?
ARE YOU HURT?
WHAT WAS THAT SPELL?!
NO, I'M FINE

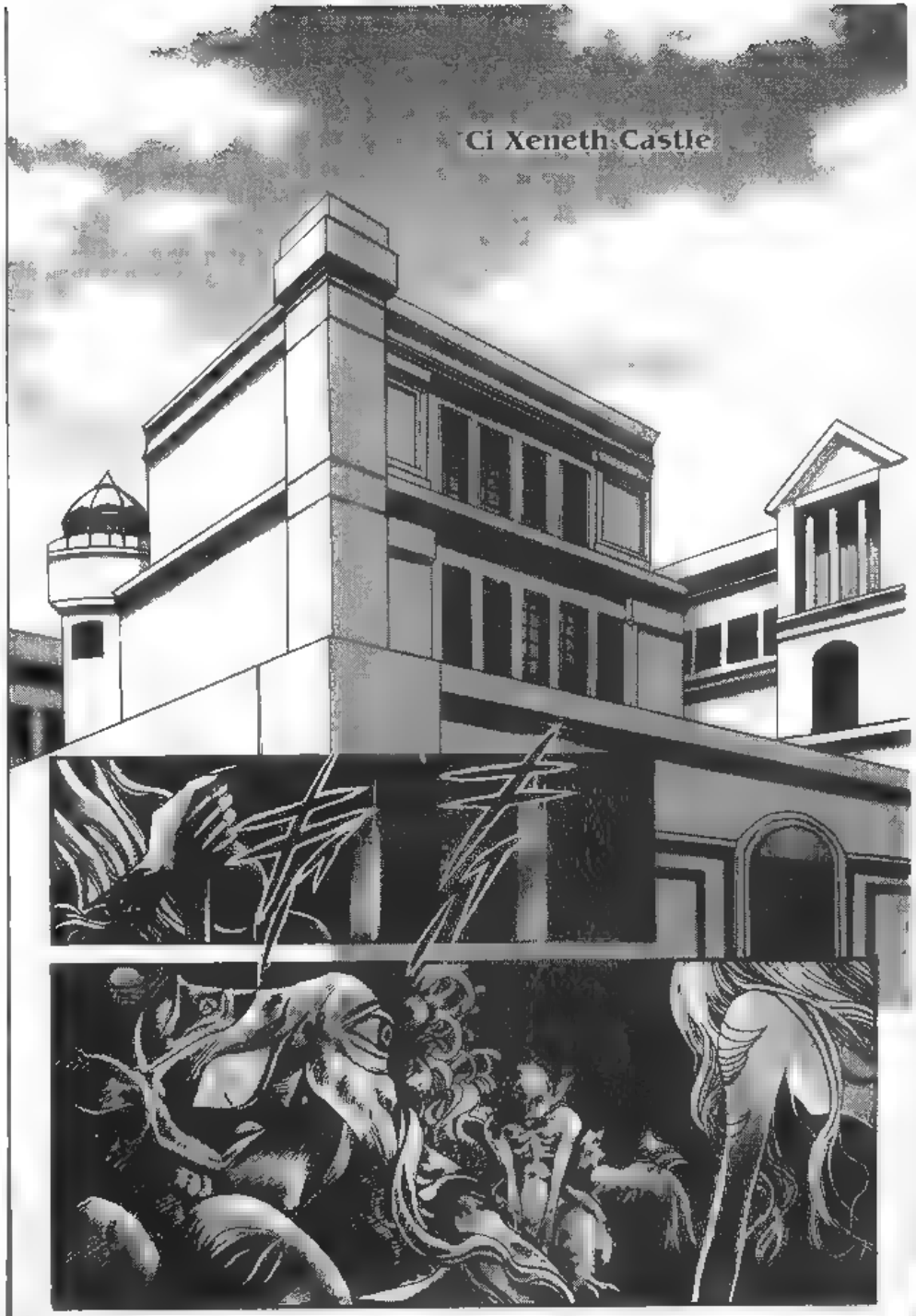
GGGGHHHHH

CAPTAIN!
CAPTAIN ILLSAIDE!
CAPTAIN?!

THAT WAS QUITE A FIGHT...
...YOUNG MAN.
YOUNG MAN?
HE'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! THIS GUY DOESN'T EVEN LOOK OLD ENOUGH TO SHAVE! HE CAN'T BE MORE THAN 17.
AND THIS SWORD...
..IS VERY, VERY NICE IS IT YOURS?

.....?
PHELIOS!
PHELIOS ?
BUT HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HIM, DUZIE!

I WANT YOU...
...TO BE MY MAN.
HE DREW THE SWORD OF... PHELIOS?!



吸血遊戯
東領篇（シーゼネス）
Act.2

COME A LITTLE CLOSER. JUST A LITTLE CLOSER.

LET ME OUT OF THIS CAGE, YOU LITTLE MAGGOT!!!
YOUR BLOODY ENTRAILS WILL BE FED TO A HOWLING PACK OF YWERTH WHILE I CRUSH YOUR SPINE WITH

OUR WAY IS COMING! YOUR END IS NEAR!

LET ME GIVE YOU A KISS, MANFLESH. YOUR TONGUE WILL TASTE GREAT WITH A GLASS OF YOUR BLOOD.
...YOUR EYES TORN FROM YOUR SKULL AND TRAMPLED UNDER THE CLAWS OF .

I'VE CAPTURED THE BANDITS

LORD JENED!

ヒュ
ヒュ

IT'S A HOLY SWORD
I'VE NAMED IT SHERINA.
HOLY...?
ISN'T IT WONDER-FUL?
YES.
IT'S NO SIDIA. BUT IT IS A TRUE RUELLE...
...FORGED WITH HOLY MAGIC A DECENT START.
OH YES...
THE WORMS THAT STOLE MY PRECIOUS RUELLE
BANDITS?
I JUST FINISHED IT
COME HERE, ILLSAIDE.
I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS NEW SWORD.
.....

FORGING A RUELLE LIKE THIS ISN'T AN EXACT SCIENCE WE MAY NEVER KNOW THE TRUE EXTENT OF ITS POWERS...
...AND WE SHOULDN'T BE CONGRATULATING OURSELVES UNTIL WE HAVE SOME VERIFICATION.
OF COURSE, THAT'S ALL COMPLETELY THEORETICAL...
..UNTIL WE'VE SEEN THE SWORD IN ACTION
YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE.
ILLSAIDE, THIS IS DIAAGE, THE SORCERER WHO HELPED ME FIND THE RAW MATERIALS WE NEEDED.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GIVE HIM HIS.. VERIFICATION.
IT SHOULD BE A FINE RECEPTACLE FOR MAGICAL ENHANCEMENT.
IT WAS CRAFTED WITH THE UTMOST CARE.

ILLSAIDE, YOU SAID...
...YOU CAUGHT SOME BANDITS?
ガヤ
ガヤ

ME!
YOUR BIG BROTHER TELLS ME YOU'RE ONLY 15, BUT YOU KNOCKED DOWN THOSE BANDITS LIKE A WARHORSE...
WHO'S MY BROTHER...?
TEE
HEE
I'M STARTING TO AGREE WITH DARRES THAT THIS GIRL NEEDS A GOOD, HARD SPANKING.
WE NEED MORE MEN LIKE YOU!
.....
I'LL BET YOU COULD BEAT THE CAPTAIN!
AND HE'S THE BEST AROUND!
YOU FOLKS SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN INTERFERIN' ON MY ACCOUNT.
JUST PLAIN DUMB.
GETTIN' MIXED UP..
..IN MY BUSINESS IS JUST DUMB.
YOU WERE AMAZING!
WE'RE DUMB? FOR SAVING YOU?

THEY SAY HE'S AS GOOD AS CAPTAIN SELEN OF PHELIOSTA!
SHE'S THE "DARK ANGEL" OF THE CAPITAL.
...AND HE'S THE "HOLY WARRIOR" OF THE NORTH.
YUP! THAT'S HIM!
I HEARD ABOUT THAT. UNCLE JENED IGNORED ORDERS FROM THE CAPITAL AND CONQUERED HALF OF MERARIM.
HE LED YOUR ARMY IN THE MERARIM WAR LAST YEAR, RIGHT?
CUTE NICKNAMES DO THEY WEAR CAPES TOO?
THE HOLY WARRIOR AND THE DARK ANGEL...
I HAD NO IDEA...
...HE'D BE SO YOUNG!

A BIT YOUNG?!! YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF CAPTAIN ILLSAIDE!
?

AH YES, YOUR CAPTAIN.

HE CAN'T BE MORE THAN 17.
THAT'S A BIT YOUNG, DON'T YOU THINK?

LEAVE YOUR HOUSE EVERY NOW AND THEN, MAN!
HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING UNDER A ROCK?
CAPTAIN ILLSAIDE?! I'VE HEARD OF HIM!

I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR THAT, BY THE WAY.
HE'S DELIVERING THE BANDITS WE CAPTURED TO LORD JENED.
WHERE IS THAT GUY? HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS . WHERE IS PHELIOS? I MEAN ILLSAIDE! DEFINITELY ILLSAIDE.
FORGIVE MY BROTHER. HE ONLY RECENTLY LEARNED TO TALK. THINKING IS AN ABILITY HE STILL DOESN'T POSSESS
IGNORED ORDERS? UNCLE JENED? SIR KELD?
?
?
HE HAD SIR KELD PISSING HIMSELF IN SHAME! GRANTED, HE PISSES HIMSELF EVEN WHEN HE'S NOT ASHAMED, BUT YOU GET MY POINT.
ケラ
ケラ

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE CAPTURED THEM ALIVE.
MY ORDERS WERE TO JUST BRING BACK THEIR HEADS.
BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS UNNE-CESSARY

RELAX SOLDIER!
CAPTAIN ILLSAIDE!
IT'S NOT HIS BLOOD.
WHOSE BLOOD IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
LIEUTENANT GORGEN!
WAS IT A MERARIM SUICIDE ATTACK?!

ON LORD JENED'S ORDERS...
...THE CAPTAIN HAS EXECUTED THE BANDITS. ALL OF THEM.
HEY...!
THEIR BODIES WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE MARKET-PLACE TOMORROW
.....?
どわあ

COME WITH ME

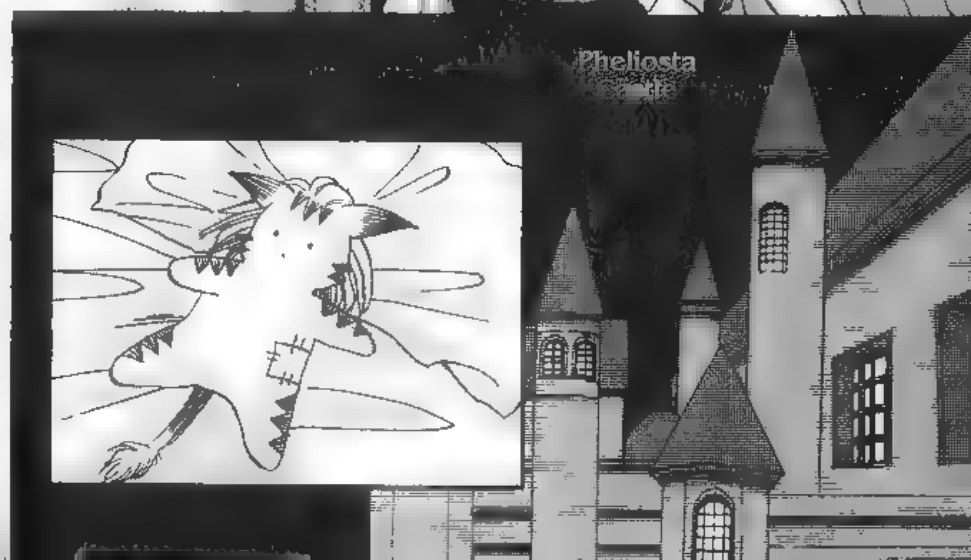
WHEN I TOLD HER ABOUT THE RING ..
...I KNEW SHE'D USE IT TO SNEAK OUT OF THE CASTLE
SHE CAN'T HELP IT. THE GIRL'S A FREE SPIRIT.

SHE NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT HER RUELLES CAN DO...
...SO SHE CAN USE THEM WHEN SHE NEEDS TO. OTHERWISE WHAT GOOD ARE THEY?

MAGIC MAN'S RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
BUT WHERE WOULD SHE GO? AND WHY DIDN'T SHE ASK ME TO COME WITH?

IF YOU KNEW, THEN WHY DID YOU TELL HER?!!
DARRES...

HE'S PUKING!
I WAS GONNA OFFER THE GUY A DRINK, BUT I THINK HE'S HAD ENOUGH
WHAT THE .. ?!


Pheliosta

I THINK SHE GOT LOST
DIRECTING A RUELLE ISN'T THE EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD. WE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HER A MAP ALONG WITH THE RING.
LET ME GUESS... SHE WENT VERY FAR.
YES, VERY
SO WHERE IS SHE?!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
AFTER THAT, YOU CAN RIDE OUT WITH THE CAVALRY AND BRING OUR FAIR PRINCESS HOME
DON'T WORRY SHE'S BEEN GONE FOR A WHILE...
...BUT I THINK I CAN FIND HER.
I DOUBT SHE WOULD GO VERY FAR.
SHE JUST CAME ALL THE WAY BACK FROM LA NAAN.

WELL, SHE CAN ONLY GO TO PLACES SHE'S BEEN.
WHICH LEAVES FOUR POSSIBILI-TIES..
...CI XENETH, LA NAAN, ZI ALDA, AND MIL SEII. IF SHE'S NOT IN ONE OF THE CASTLES, SHE'S PROBABLY NEARBY.
SO DARRES.
...PICK A SPOT. I HEAR ZI ALDA IS LOVELY THIS TIME OF YEAR.
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!!

WHAT?!!
AND?

I TOOK ILLSAIDE TO HIS ROOM...
...AND HELPED HIM GET OUT OF HIS ARMOR.
THEN HE WENT TO SLEEP, SO I LEFT.
WHEW!
I WAS WORRIED HE MIGHT PUSH THAT "I WANT YOU TO BE MY MAN" THING ON YOU.
GET YOUR MIND OUT OF THE GUTTER.
I WANT YOU TO JOIN HIM.
HE WAS TRYING TO RECRUIT ME AS A WARRIOR, NOT A...
OH, YOU KNEW THAT.

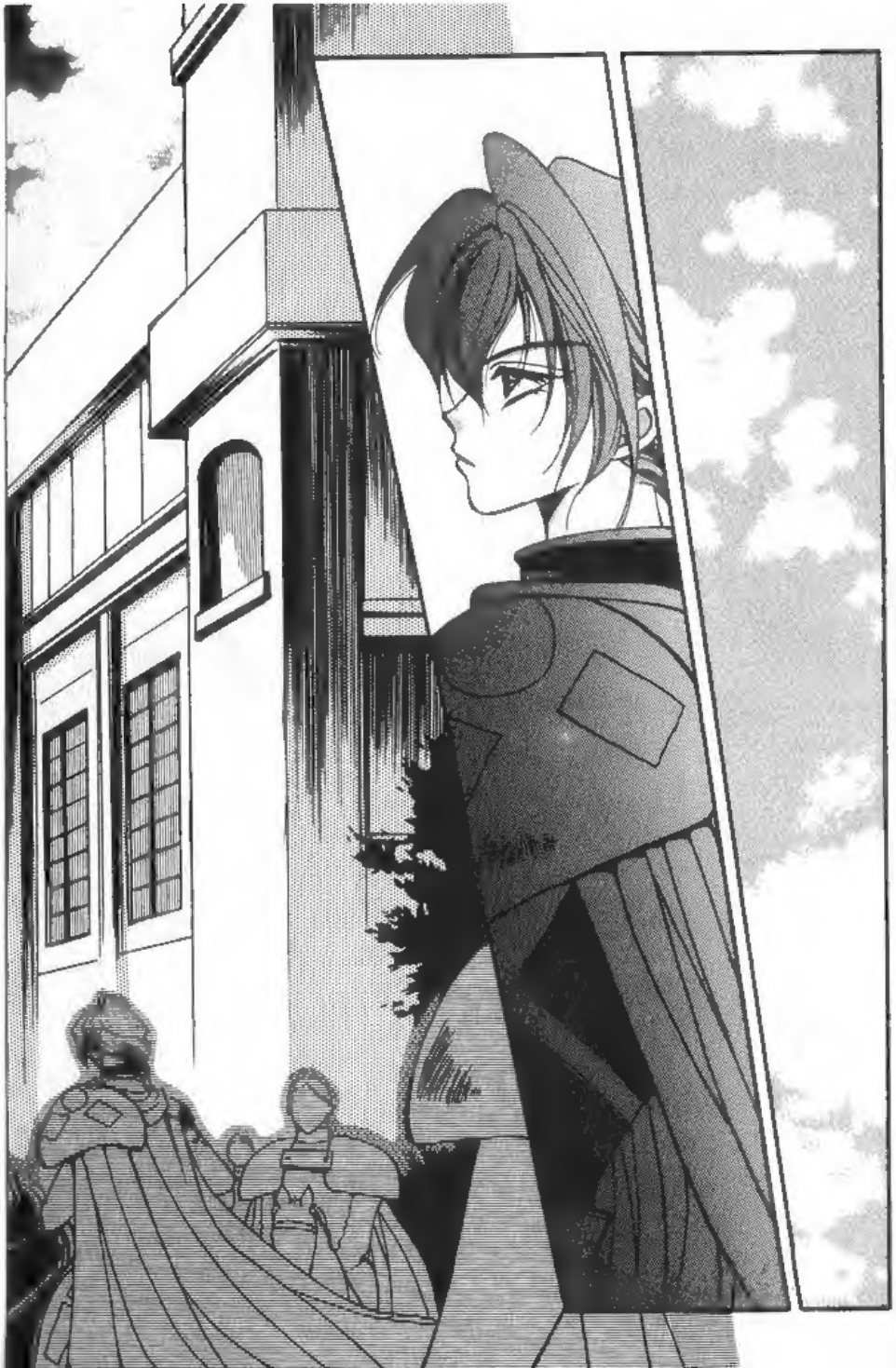
UNCLE JENED WANTS ME DEAD
AND ALTHOUGH THAT SENTIMENT IS SHARED BY HALF OF PHELIOSTA...
?!
AND TAKE ORDERS FROM A KID THAT CAN'T EVEN HANDLE A LITTLE BLOOD?!
...I'D STILL RATHER KEEP A LOW PROFILE AROUND HERE
BESIDES, AS A KNIGHT OF CI XENETH...
...YOU'D HAVE FULL ACCESS TO THE CASTLE...

NOPE!
...THEN IT'S GOT TO BE ILLSAIDE!!
HE'S YOUR OTHER RELATIVE HERE, RIGHT?!
I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON HIM, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TO BITE HIM! UNLESS HE WANTS YOU TO, OF COURSE.
WHY ARE YOU CONSTANTLY TRYING TO HOOK ME UP WITH OTHER GUYS?
MY ONLY OTHER RELATIVE IN CI XENETH IS PRINCESS FALAN.
SHE'S MY COUSIN.

I GET IT.
I'M GOING UNDERCOVER AS PHELIOSTA'S FIRST VAMPIRE DETECTIVE...
.....
...HOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE GHOST OF PHELIOS.
THINK YOUR UNCLE JENED IS THE ONE I'M AFTER?
DUNNO
IF HE ISN'T...

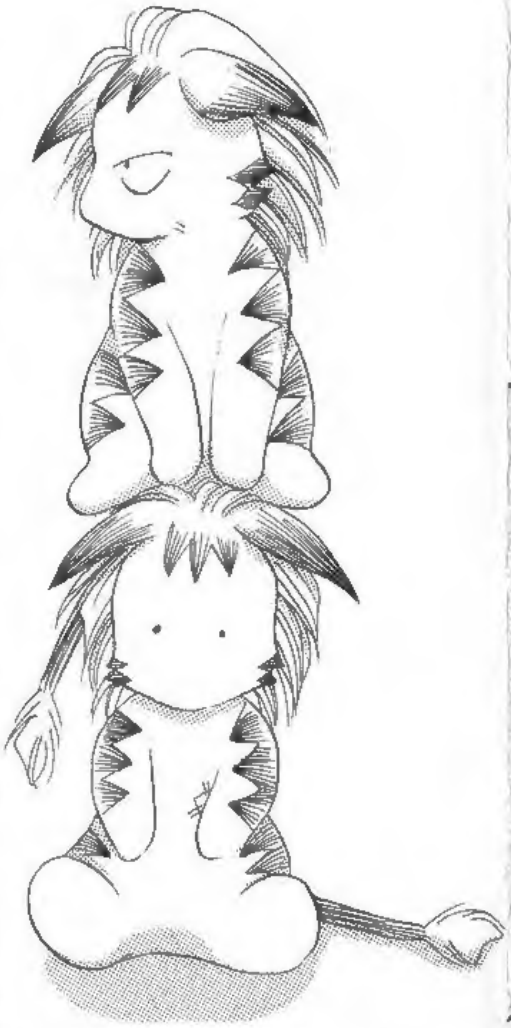
DESPITE EVERY-THING, I ABSOLUTELY ADORE FALAN SHE'S A REAL SWEETIE.

PRINCESS?
REALLY.
YEAH.
THAT'S WHY UNCLE JENED WANTS ME OUT OF THE WAY. THE ONLY WAY CI XENETH CAN TAKE THE THRONE IS IF I'M DEAD.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE WEIRDEST THING ABOUT ALL THIS?



HUH ?
?
AFTER THEY MISUSE A MAGIC RING, THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN CI XENETH.
NOW THEY MUST FIND PHELIOS WHILE MAKING THEIR WAY TO MT. DOOM TO DESTROY THE RING.
YOU'RE TOO BARFY TO BE PHELIOS.

POSTSCRIPT



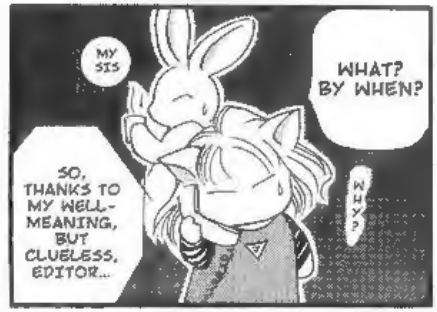
CONTINUED IN VOL. 5

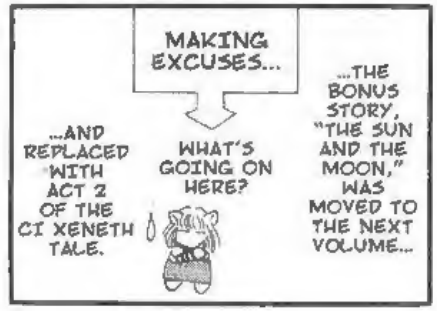
VAMPIRE GAME

Next issue...

Ishtar's no stranger to getting herself in trouble and as she's about to discover, if it's trouble you seek, Ci Xeneth is your place to party. Hoping to avoid unnecessary contact with her malicious uncle, Ishtar strikes up a friendship with the captain of his guard by pretending to be one of the boys. But how could one so fair possibly pose as a knight? By drawing attention to her "sister," Duzell, of course! Duzell's no stranger to posing as a woman, but when he mistakenly accepts a marriage proposal from the amorous Illsaide, he sets off a chain of events that leads our fair gang into battle with a monstrous beast.

FINALLY...
JUDES, YOU NEED XX MORE PAGES FOR VOLUME 4...
EVEN THOUGH MY EDITOR HAS TRIED TO EXPLAIN IT TO ME, I NEVER CAN QUITE FIGURE OUT THE PAGE COUNT FOR EACH VOLUME...
EDI-TOR
OKAY, SO LET'S GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME...



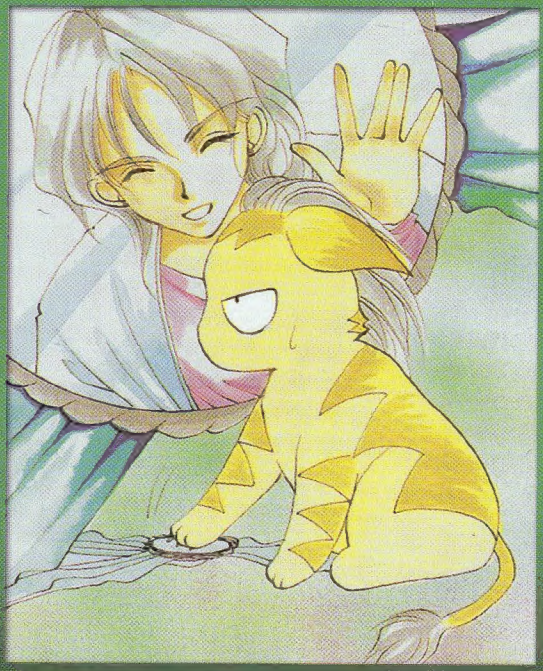

MAKING EXCUSES...
...AND REPLACED WITH ACT 2 OF THE CI XENETH TALE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
...THE BONUS STORY, "THE SUN AND THE MOON," WAS MOVED TO THE NEXT VOLUME...

TOKYOPOP

Manga
Gothic/Romance
USA $9.99

VAMPIRE GAME™

In order to collect the keys to the kingdom, Prince Sciliez must defeat Princess Ishtar in the final battle of the La Naan Martial Arts Tournament. With Duzel preoccupied in getting back to nature, things are not looking so good for the princess. Her fighting skills are dubious and her chances are slim, but winning is her only option...because losing means marrying the bizarre Prince Sciliez.



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